

Tuesday 29th of May, Kalmar, Sweden

Opening Speech

Dominique Mouillot

President of WIN Europe

Dear WiNners, dear friends,

First of all, it is my pleasure to congratulate all the members of Win Sweden who contributed to the organization of this Congress and especially Anna, Marguerite and of course Monica. All of you have performed a great work! I'm sure that we will have a very successful conference.

Last year, the theme of the conference was "Nuclear Technologies: to build a better world". The nuclear mix was an important part of the energy policy of many countries. Nuclear Technologies were promoted as tools for a cheap, efficient and clean energy for the years to come.

Today, following the Fukushima accident, a few countries have stopped totally their nuclear program. They have announced and started to close one by one their nuclear power plants. Some of them are even restarting coal factories...

Tuesday 29th of May, Kalmar, Sweden

Nonetheless, we still need light; we still need electricity, heat, or power to fuel our factories. The world population has not stopped growing after Fukushima and always asks for more electrical power, for its food factories, its mobile phone, the use of its computer at work ...

We were only one point five billion in 1900. Few decades from now, we will be ten billion! The energy challenge for the 21st century has just started.

As a mother, as a woman CEO of a company involved in nuclear decommissioning, engineering and reactor maintenance, as a long-time WiNner, I still believe in the virtue of nuclear power. Our industry will overcome this challenge as it overcame it after Chernobyl.

Women in Nuclear was created a few years after Chernobyl to bring something new to the way the nuclear industry was communicating to the general public. In 20 years, we have been growing so much! First on the global level, then on the local level with the WiN chapters and now on the regional level with WiN Europe.

Today, in Europe, there are 121 working reactors in Europe. Actually, how many have we stopped? Germany is the only country in Europe who closed reactors right after the accident in April 2011. Indeed, it decided to stop its 7 oldest reactors and will close the other remaining 10 by 2020. The situation in Switzerland is certainly grim, right Irene? Same can be said for Belgium even if we are a little bit

Tuesday 29th of May, Kalmar, Sweden

more hopeful. The Italians voted for good in June 2011 against nuclear power. In France, our new President, François Hollande, made a campaign promise to close our oldest NPP, Fessenheim, by the end of his 5 years mandate but the new construction of the EPR in Flamanville is continuing. However, new constructions in Eastern Europe, Finland and the UK are still planned. UK is showing the way forward by restarting a large nuclear programme with the necessary political and public support.

Thus we should not paint a black picture of the situation. If Fukushima undeniably created a shock for our industry, we should not consider that it has marked the end of nuclear power. Let's take the example of Europe since I represent WiN Europe.

More than ever, the founding role at the origin of WiN, which was to explain civil nuclear energy to the general public and especially women, becomes again essential and do not allow us to lessen it. Finally, all our actions today should be focused on communicating towards young people, schools, universities, friends and family by using all the available tools and means.

Our motto must be to communicate more than ever, communicate on nuclear safety and its quality and its achievements. It is now our first mission as WiNners. Finally, the Fukushima accident forces us to remember our first mission. It is now or never that we have to tell everyone that WiN Europe, and of course WiN global members, do

Tuesday 29th of May, Kalmar, Sweden

bring together high level, young or experienced, experts who can play a role of advisors to governments ,administrations, or actively participate in public debates. We bear the responsibility after Fukushima to be present on all scenes and to make available our expertise.

Do not get me wrong, I don't mean to offend any one here, least of all my colleagues from Japan, but is it not an opportunity for us to revitalize the role of WiN in the nuclear world as well as in Japan? We should legitimize WiN to governments and public offices and institutions to make available to them our well recognized independent and objective expertise.

To conclude, the nuclear industry is still a high tech industry with a promising future. Tightening the safety in this industry presents a wonderful but difficult challenge to be tackled by all of us. This is the message that we need to transmit. It is time to act now. Let's make the difference!

Thank you!